



Determinants of Participation in Paralympic sports among athletes with disabilities in developing nations. The case of Kenya & Uganda

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The role of Sports

- **Has long been recognized to play a significant role in equalizing opportunities**
- **The USA – Education for all PL94-142 Act placed physical activity as being critical in empowering PWDs**
- **Kenya 1980 -Presidential decree that made physical education compulsory in all schools**

opportunities

- Sport is a powerful medium for
 - Inclusion and socialization
- Sport for people with a disability is an excellent
 - opportunity to “activate” the UN Convention



UNCRPD 2007

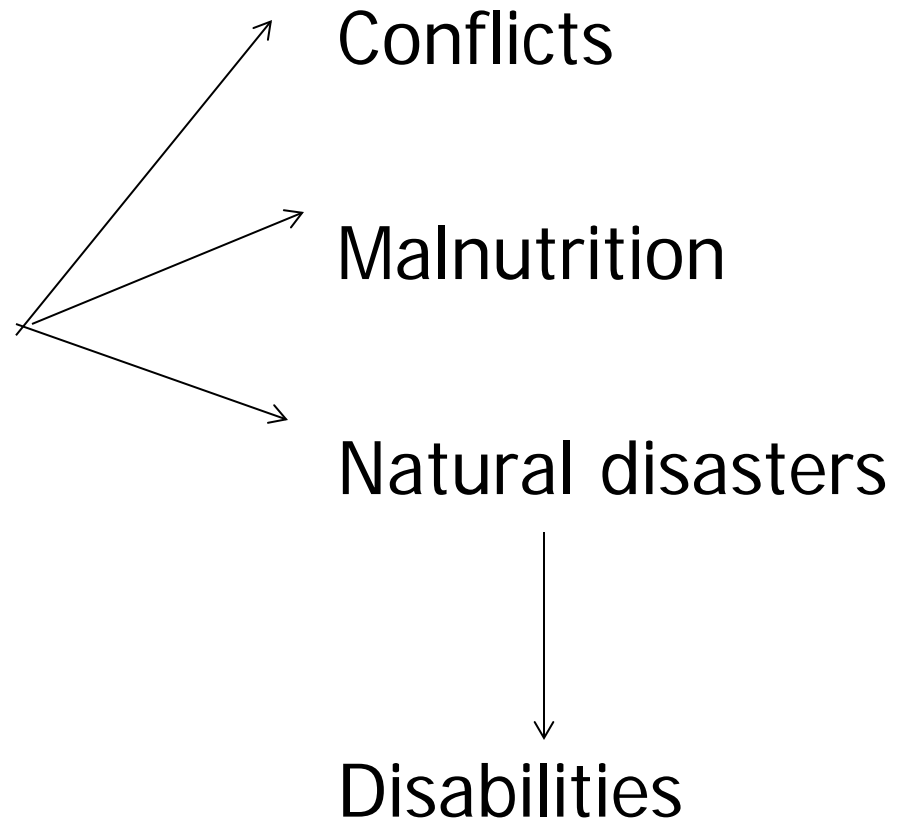
- **Article 30:**
Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
 - **Article 7: Children with disabilities**
 - **Article 8: Awareness-raising**
 - **Article 24 :Education**
 - **Article 25: Health**
- **Kenya signed the convention 2008 while Uganda**





Huge potential for growth of Paralympic sports in African countries

- "Sub-Saharan Africa is the most important development challenge of the 21st century".
(WB 2011)





Socio-economic determinants of Paralympic participation and success

- Understanding the socio-economic determinants of Paralympic participation and success is important for the Paralympic movement's growth and evolution.
- Many of the existing research in this realm have focused on western and or developed nations.
- Unfortunately, for those in developing and non western nations many persons with disability do not participate in sports.



The reality in Kenya and Uganda

Methodology

- The study assessed the socio-cultural determinants for participation by PWDs in the two countries.
- Sample for study
 - Kenya – 200
 - Uganda – 100
 - All participating at national level
 - Assessed from sports competition venues



Areas of assessment

- **Scope**

- Sports policy structure in place
- Financing Parasports
- Access to Facilities
- Gender differences
- Cultural practices
- Access to classifiers

Number of Participants

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%

114 (57%)

74 (74%)

86 (43%)

26 (26%)

KENYA

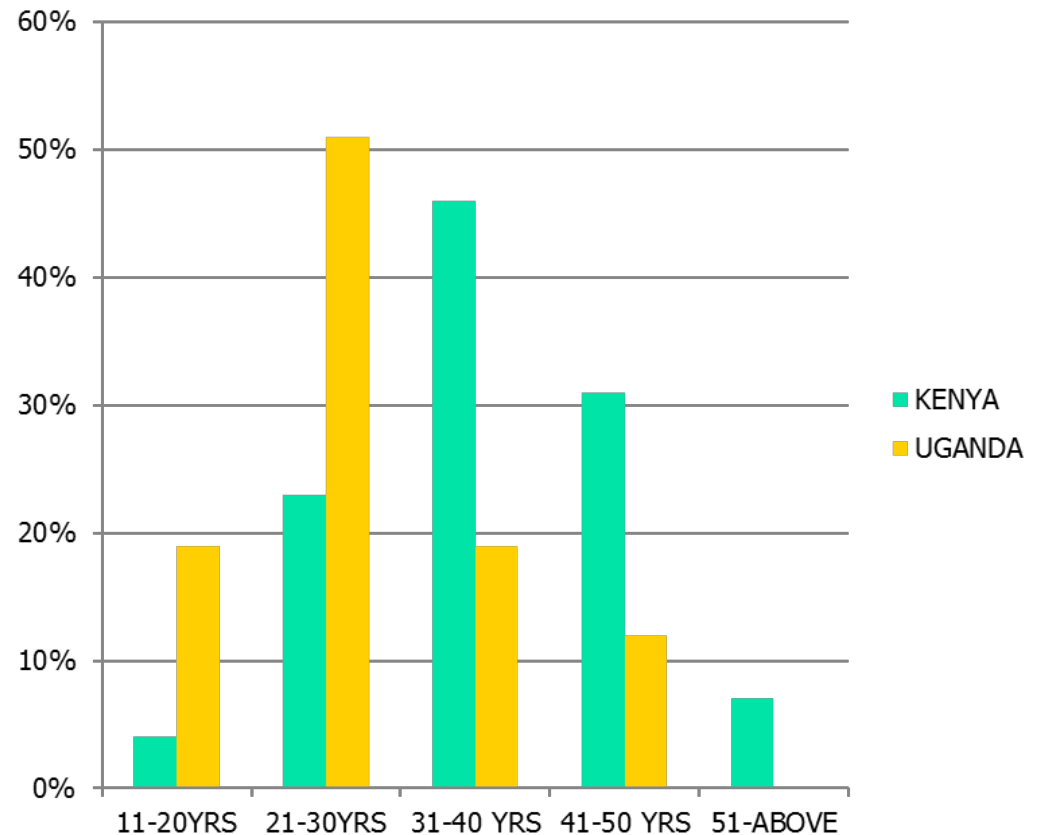
UGANDA

MALE

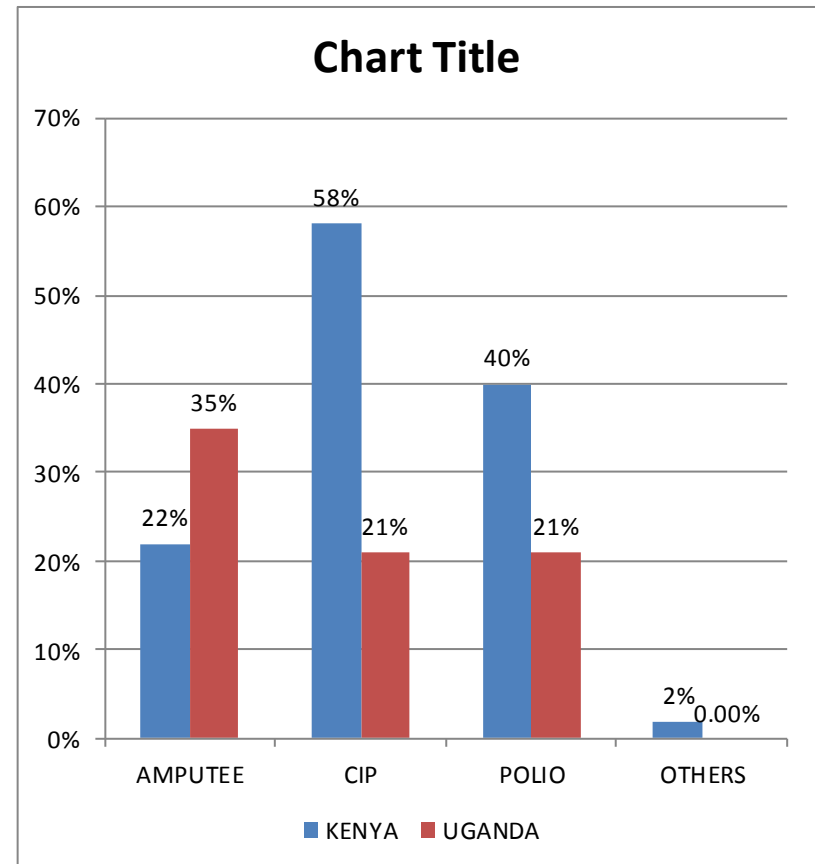
FEMALE

AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

- Kenya much older participants
- Uganda participants between 21-30 year bracket

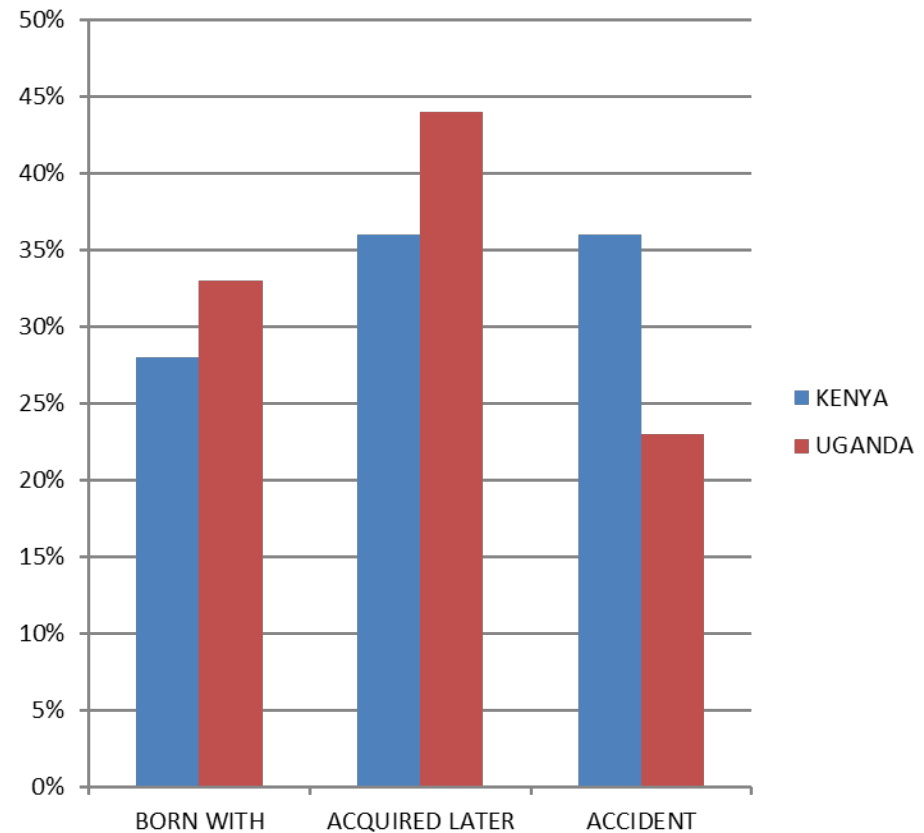


Type of disability represented



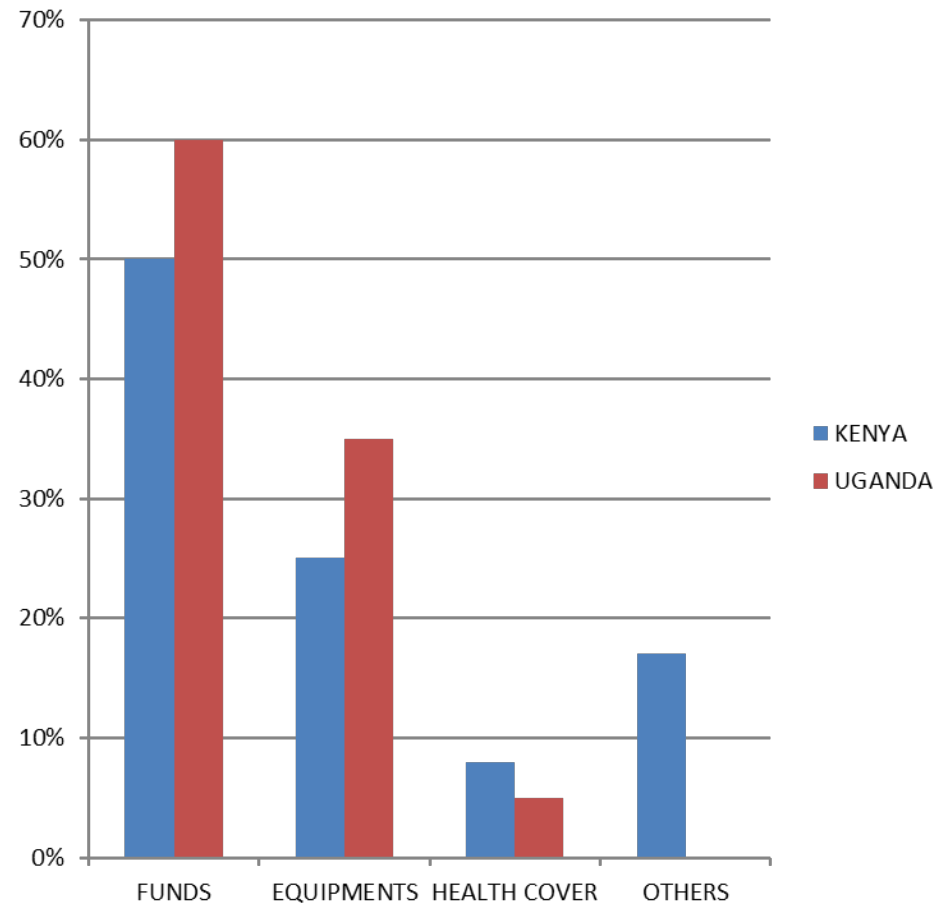
Cause of disability

- Snake bites
- Polio
- House flies-Trachoma
- Accidents
- wars



Challenges to Participation

3 major challenges



Sports Policy

- **Uganda**
- **Physical activity sports bill 2017 not yet in place**
- **No structured way of funding sports**
- **Only five sports mentioned in the bill that exclude disability sports**

Kenya

- **A unified sports policy**
 - **Equal support by Government**
 - **Awards for winners of all sports –equal**
 - **Not yet implemented**



Government funding

- Inadequate
- Limited allocation of budget
- Limited corporate sponsorship
- Rely on donations
- No long term sponsorships



Reliance on donations

- Motivation has been a major supporter
- Local equipment makers have stepped in



Local equipment Industry



- APDK has been on the forefront making wheelchairs
- Empowers PWD to participate in the annual Stanchart Marathon





■ Equipment & Facilities

- major problem to participation
- No appropriate equipment
- Few shared by all participants
- Rely on donations that many times inappropriate for the terrain



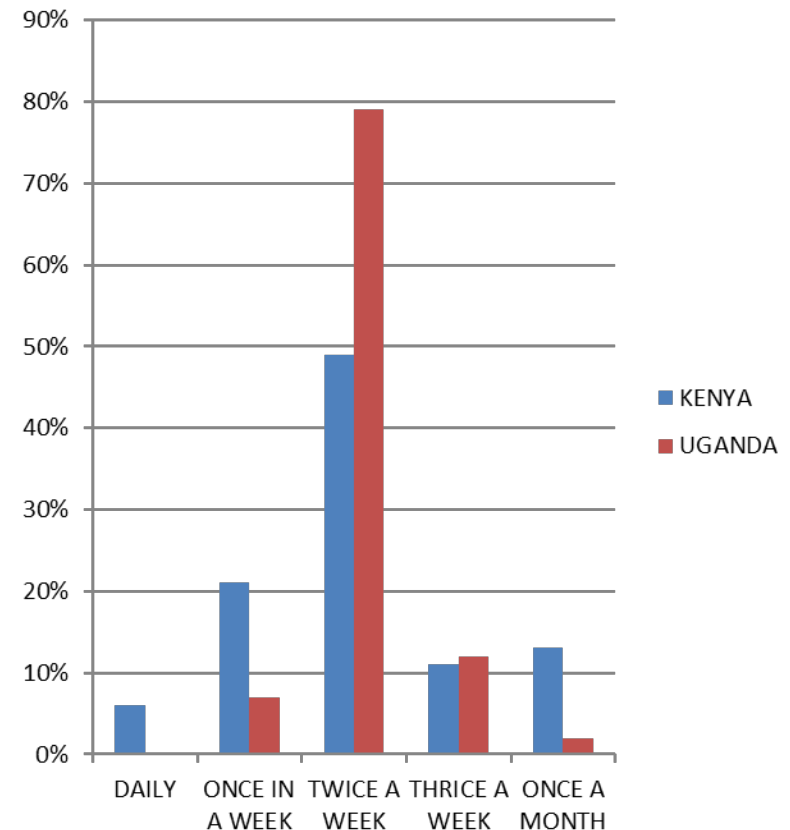
Federations work with senior players and not at grass roots

- Many athletes over 30 years
- Prefer mature athletes
- Lack of trained coaches
- Financial constraints



Number of days in training

- Most practice twice
 - Training facilities far
 - Coach availability a factor
 - They are busy with their small business enterprises
 - Lack money to pay for taxi





very few participants coming through to elite level sports

- Mean age of athletes 30 years
- No scouting for talent at school games
- Older athletes resist new athletes
- Possessive of any equipment provided

Few Opportunities – Force one to jump from one sport to another to try luck thus lack of specialization



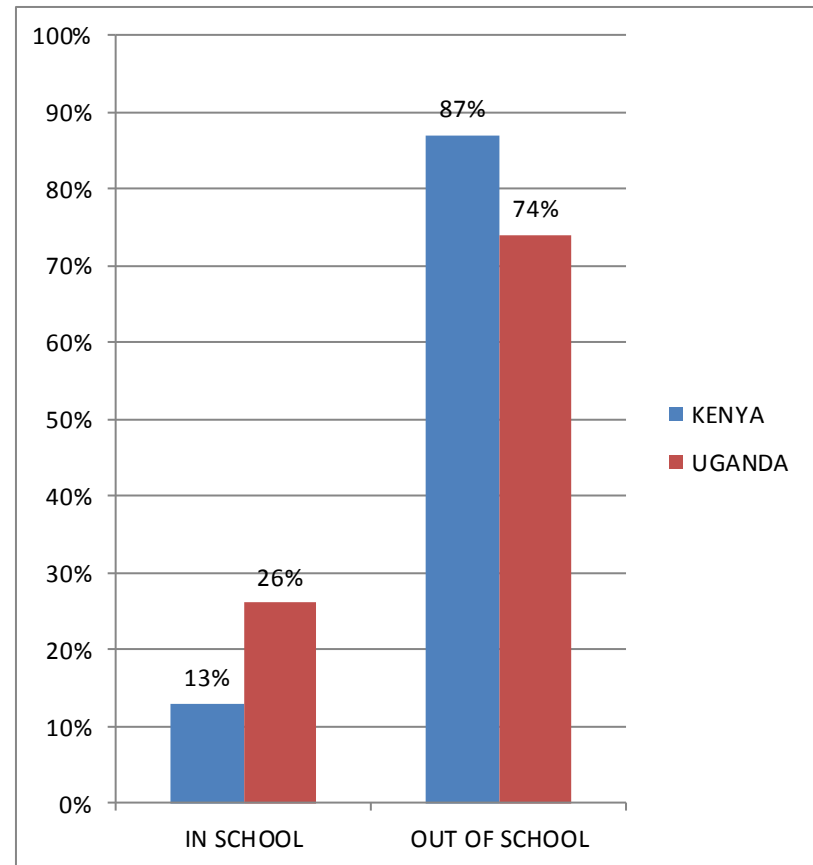
Level of education

- Many people with disabilities not attending school
 - Schools provide opportunities for skill learning
 - Schools only place where sports skills learned
 - Uganda has a higher number of participants with higher training



In and out of school

- Majority are out of school
- Those who participated in school games drop out
- Majority of participants live in urban centres





Out of school programmes

- **Sports programmes at community level**

- **NGO initiatives**

- KNPC
- Special Olympics
- Deaflympics
- APDK
- Christian Blinden Mission

- **Religious organisations**

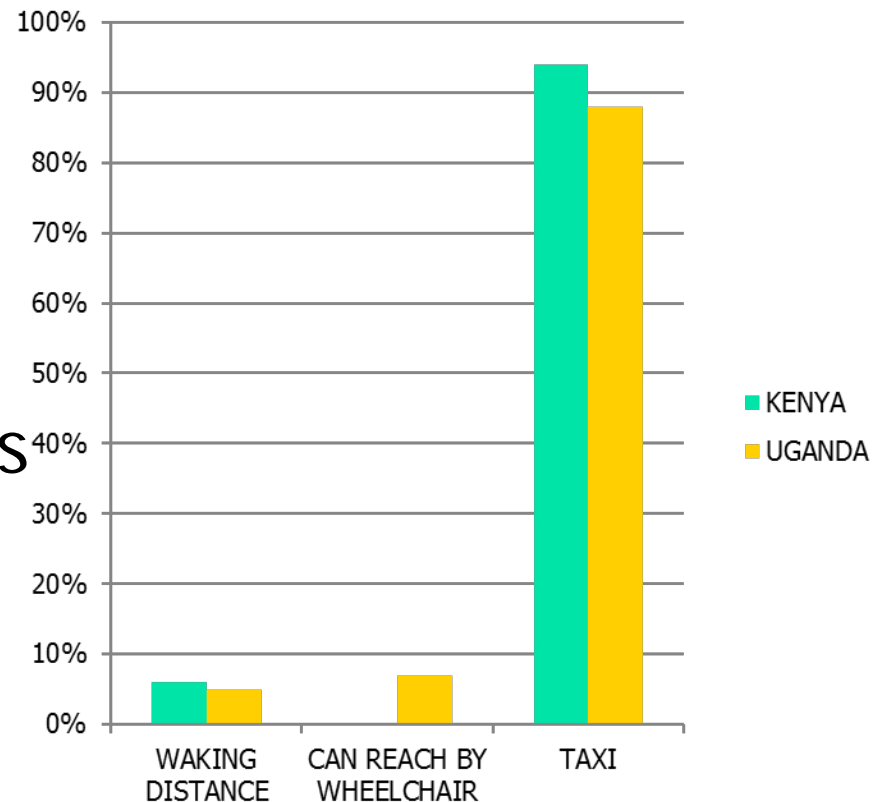
- Salvation army

- **Community clubs**

- In towns

Distance to training facility

- Facilities far
- Inaccessible roads for wheelchair users
- Few accessible facilities and mainly in urban areas
- Costly to take taxi



Opportunities

- Limited opportunities to participate
- Few appropriate equipment



Paralympic Summer Games



Year	Athletes	Female	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1972	3	0	1	0	1	2
1980	16	2	1	2	0	3
1984	?	?	1	1	1	3
1988	?	?	0	4	1	5
1992	?	?	1	0	1	2
1996	17	6	1	1	0	2
2000	13	5	1	1	2	4
2004	12	4	3	1	3	7
2008	11	3	5	3	1	9
2012	14	3	4	3	1	8
2016	19	4	3	1	2	6
Total	86	23	18	16	11	45